(d) if not, whether Government propose to evolve a uniform policy rationalising the practice of writing off of agricultural loans; if so, what steps have been taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

(c) and (d) The consistent stand of RBI and Central Government in this regard has been that generalised write off of farm loans, irrespective of the merits of each case, harm the agricultural credit system. NABARD has issued instructions that henceforth State Cooperative Banks and State Land Development Banks would get refinance from NABARD only if they comply with the conditions relating to interest rates, conversion of loans etc. by RBI/NABARD.

Seizure of Books titled as "Damming the Narmada"

365. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that five hundred copies of the book titled "Damming the Narmada, India's greatest planned disaster" by Claude Alvares and Ramseh Billorey have been held up by the Customs authorities at the Foreign Post Office; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for holding up the books by the Customs authorities and whether these books have since been released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) A consignment of six parcels containing the book entitled 'DAMMING THE NARMADA' written by Claude Alvares and Ramesh Billorey jointly published by Third World Network, Malaysia imported by M/s. Natraj publishers of Dehradun, was detained by the Customs authorities at the Foreign Post Office, New Delhi as the Customs authorities felt that the import of the book would attract the provisions of Sub-Sections (t) and (v) of Section 11 of the Customs Act, 1962. It was proposed for consideration that a notification be issued banning the import of the book. After careful consideration of the proposal, the Government decided that no restriction need be placed on the import of the book and the books were accordingly released.

Performance of Sericulture Programme in Rajasthan

366. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the performance of sericulture programme in Rajasthan as compared to the natoinal standard:

(b) whether Rajasthan Government has submitted any proposal to extend the sericulture programme to more districts in the State involving higher Central allocation;

(c) if so what are the details thereof stating the estimated amount involved in extending the sericulture programme to more districts in Rajasthan; and

(d) whether the proposal has been approved by the Central Government, if so, the manner in which the programme is proposed to be financed by the Centre and by what time it is likely to materialise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Sericulture in Rajasthan was introduced during 1981-82 and is gaining momentum. The present mulberry production in the State is nomi-

nal and is around 200 kgs as compared to a national production of 8442 tonnes.

(b) to (d) The State Government of Rajasthan had formulated a sericulture project to bring an area of 5200 h.a. under mulberry plantation in 20 districts of the State with World Bank assistance to the extent of Rs. 11.84 crore. The proposal has been considered and the State of Rajasthan has been included by the Central Silk Board as one of the 12 pilot states to be covered by the Board under the National Sericulture Project to be implemented with World Bank/ Swiss assistance. The project is scheduled to be implemented in the current financial year.

Negotiation on intellectual Property rights under the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff.

367. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to negotiate substantive norms and standards relating to intellectual property rights under the General Agreement for Trade and Tariff (GATT), if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) if not, what is Government's stand and whether they still stick to the stand that was taken at the Montreal Meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) The Punta del Este Declaration, which launched the Uruguay Round, provided for negotiations in the area of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, including trade in counterfeit goods, with the aim of clarifying GATT provisions and to elaborate, as appropriate, new rules and disciplines.

At Montreal, industrialised countries as well as a number of developing countries were in agreement that the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights should encompass substantive aspects of intellectual property rights, including norms and standards. However, India and several other developing countries maintained that they could not accept consideration of substantive norms and standards under the GATT. Moreover, it was necessary to balance any consideration of these substantive aspects with consideration of the underlying policy objectives of public interest and developmental and technological needs of developing countries. The issue remained unresolved at Montreal.

Murder of an IPS Probationer in Imphal

368. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) in what circumstances Miss Vandana Malik, a probationer I.P.S. officer was killed along with two constables near Imphal in the first week of April;

(b) whether the killers have been identified and if so, what action has been taken in this connection;

(c) what action is being taken by the Central Government to check growing terrorist activities in this area; and

(d) whether the terrorists are getting any help from foreign countries and if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) On 8th April 1989, when Kumari Vandana Malik was returning to the Lamsang Police Station along with 6 police personnel after supervising security arrangements at Western College in connection with HSLC examination, her jeep was